



# Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) are planning documents that allow Department of Defense (DoD) installations to implement landscape-level management of their natural resources while coordinating with various stakeholders. They are extremely important management tools that ensure military operations and natural resources conservation are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements.

INRMPs provide a framework for the use and conservation of natural resources on lands and waters under DoD control. While primarily used by installation natural resources managers, the INRMP also provides installation planners with baseline information necessary for the development of installation master plans and associated Geographic Information Systems. An INRMP also serves as a principal information source for preparing environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for new construction, military operations, and other proposed installation actions. In addition, INRMPs provide the basis for formulating the natural resources budget. Each plan balances the ecosystem-wide management of natural resources with mission requirements and other land use activities affecting those resources.

*Development of the INRMP is a collaborative effort between the appropriate field office staff in conjunction with Regional Office of the USFWS and state fish and wildlife agency. The goal is for all agencies to agree on the fish and wildlife management decisions in the plan. Each INRMP must provide for public participation.*

## What Does an INRMP Include?

INRMPs identify specific actions required to attain natural resource management goals. Although there is some variation among the different military services, a basic INRMP includes:

- A description of the installation, its history and its current mission
- Management goals and associated timeframes
- Recommended projects and estimated costs
- Discussion on how military mission and training requirements are supported while protecting the environment
- Legal requirements and biological needs of the natural resources
- The role of the installation's natural resources in the context of the surrounding ecosystem
- Input from the USFWS, State fish and wildlife agency, and the general public

In addition, the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) of 1997 require, to the extent appropriate and applicable, that INRMPs provide for:

1. Fish and wildlife management, land management, forest management, and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation.
2. Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement or modifications.
3. Wetlands protection, enhancement, and restoration, where necessary for support of fish, wildlife, or plants.
4. Integration of and consistency among the various activities conducted under the plan.
5. Establishment of specific natural resources management goals and objectives, and time frames for proposed actions.
6. Sustainable use by the public of natural resources to the extent that the use is not

inconsistent with the needs of the fish and wildlife resources.

7. Public access to the military installation that is necessary and appropriate for the use described in #6, subject to requirements necessary to ensure safety and military security.
8. Enforcement of applicable natural resources laws and regulations; and
9. No net loss in the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of the installation.

## Who Prepares the INRMP?

Installation commanders are responsible for preparation and implementation of INRMPs. Trained natural resource professionals – installation staff, personnel from other federal or state agencies, or contractors – prepare the plans. Installation natural resources managers should actively involve individuals and organizations that have a vested interest in natural resources management on the installation early in the process. These stakeholders may include:

- Managers of military operations/training activities
- Environmental managers
- Master planning staff
- Federal and state agencies (at a minimum the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and state fish and game departments)
- Agricultural lessees
- Recreational groups
- Environmental and conservation groups
- Cultural resources managers
- Native American tribal interests
- Installation pest management professionals
- Neighboring land owners
- Local government planning groups
- Scientists with expertise relevant to installation ecosystems

### What Period Does an INRMP Cover?

All INRMPs must be kept current. INRMPs are reviewed and updated annually. They must be re-coordinated with appropriate stakeholders annually and re-approved by appropriate command levels every 5 years.

### What Does an INRMP Do?

To the extent appropriate and applicable for a given installation, an INRMP:

- Integrates conservation measures and military operations
- Reflects cooperation between the USFWS, State, and installation relative to the proper management of fish and wildlife resources
- Documents requirements for the natural resources budget
- Serves as a principal information source for NEPA documents
- Aids planners and facility managers
- Guides the use and conservation of natural resources on lands and waters under DoD control
- Balances the management of natural resources unique to each installation with mission requirements and other land use activities affecting an installation's natural resources
- Identifies and prioritizes actions required to implement goals and objectives

### Who Tracks INRMP Implementation?

Each of the military services has specific policies for developing and implementing INRMPs. Each service tracks the INRMP progress for its installations and reports findings directly to the DoD.

The SAIA requires that DoD installations prepare and implement INRMPs. The SAIA requires the Secretary of Defense to monitor this process, and report annually to Congress on the status of plan development and the amounts expended by each military installation in implementing INRMPs. The Secretary of the Interior also reports annually on the amounts expended by the USFWS and State fish and game agencies on INRMP-related activities.

#### **Program Contacts:**

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*Looking Northwest to Stonewall Mountain from Tolicha Peak, Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada*  
U.S. Air Force photo

### How Are INRMPs Changing Natural Resources Management of Military Lands?

A significant difference between INRMPs and previous installation natural resources management plans is that the INRMP provides a comprehensive approach to ecosystem management. Natural resources must now be looked at holistically on a watershed or physiographic basis. Previous management plans lacked integration and took a narrower installation-only view of natural resources and their management.

All traditional component areas of natural resources management are integrated through the INRMP planning process. The process also takes into account military mission requirements, installation master planning, environmental planning and outdoor recreation. The focus and intent of current INRMPs on involving all appropriate stakeholders to address installation requirements and regional issues will provide for more efficient and effective management of natural resources on a landscape basis while maintaining military readiness.